

Clergy should take lead in addressing community problems

As Connie sees it

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Whitman aim
to ease burden
of state
mandates

TRENTON—Gov. Christine Whitman today signed legislation to ease the financial burden of municipalities caused by state-mandated programs.

"Voters have clearly stated that they no longer wanted their property taxes used to fund expensive state mandates," said Gov. Whitman. "This law gives municipalities relief from a number of the most burdensome unfunded mandates that already exist."

The state mandate/state pay legislation, sponsored by Senators Leonard Cornor (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and John Casey (D-Burlington/Camden) and Assemblymen Jeffrey Moran and Christopher Connors, both (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean), repeals, eases, or revises a amendment approved by voters on Nov. 7, prohibiting the state in the future from imposing new circumstances specified in the amendment.

The new law:

- Revises training requirements regarding workplace hazardous substances
- Increases the threshold contract amount that triggers compliance with the prevailing wage statute
- Revises the frequency of periodic monitoring of certain storm water sewer outfall lines to eliminate redundant inspections

- Repeals the law requiring that police chiefs be paid a salary not less than 5 percent higher than that of the new highest law enforcement officers
- Authorizes a municipality participating in the State Health Benefits Program to offer incentives to employees who opt out of the program.

Relaxes, but does not eliminate, publication requirements with respect to municipal ordinances and budgets.

Gov. Whitman conditionally vetoed this legislation in September to address constitutional and public safety concerns.

Federal
Government
opens

WASHINGTON, DC—The standstill is over. President Clinton and the Republican Congress ended their bitter standoff Sunday night with an agreement to balance the budget within seven years, that will allow the federal government to re-open in full Monday.

On Sunday, November 19 after more than a week of exchanges and unsuccessful the Senate approved a one-day spending bill that will provide the money for government operations and a follow-on bill that will keep the government going until December 15.

In separate announcements, both President Clinton and the Congress claimed victory and said the agreement marked the beginning of negotiations over the plan to reach budget balance by 2002.



CITY OF NEWARK

PERIODICAL ACQUISITIONS DEPARTMENT
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NEWARK, NJ 07101STEELE, FIRST BLACK ELECTED IN
PASSAIC COUNTY IN 20 YEARS

by Michael Burton



Rev. Alfred Steele

PATERSON—For the first time in almost two decades, the 35th District elected a Black person to the State Assembly. In an expensive and hotly contested race, Rev. Alfred E. Steele beat Republican incumbent Donald Hayden by more than 2,500 votes.

The Democratic Ticket was triumphant with William J. Pascrell, who is also the Mayor of Paterson, the leading vote getter with unofficial tallies at 17,072, his running mate, Rev. Steele with 13, 675, Hayden with 10,959 and

Dennis Gonzalez with 9,611.

With this victory Steele becomes only the third Black Assemblyman to ever represent the 35th District which includes Paterson, Haledon, North Haledon, Hawthorne, Prospect Park and West Paterson. "Words alone cannot express all that went into this election," said Steele. "The people have spoken...and a new era has begun."

Pascrell was expected to retain his Assembly seat which he has held for 4 terms, but the race for the second seat was anticipated to be close as Republicans Hayden and Gonzalez each vied for the seat that Steele had missed gaining two years ago by the narrowest of margins.

The campaign took a nasty turn when the Republican State Committee circulated mailers that depicted Steele as soft on crime and portrayed a Latino looking man breaking into a car.

The mailers also included a darkened picture of Steele, showing only his head with the words, "Robbers, Muggers, Car Thieves, Drug Dealers, and Child Molesters" in the background. Many community leaders publicly took offense to the mailers calling them "racially divisive" as well as "insensitive and cruel."

Several members of the Paterson City Council, where Steele and Hayden are both representatives, called attention to the mailers in a

public meeting with one Councilman stating that Hayden owes a public personal apology to Steele. City councilmen were not the only elected representatives to take offense to the mailers. Raul Garcia, Assemblyman from the 33rd District denounced the mailers as, "a spit in the eye to the Hispanic community."

Steele attributed his victory to the non conventional way that his campaign went after votes. "We went into places that many do not even feel are important," said Steele. "We campaigned in every housing project...went door to door all over the city, informing and educating. That's how we got our votes."

State review team to
operate in school district

PLAINFIELD—Dr. Leonard Fitts, the county superintendent of schools, recently told the Plainfield Board of Education that by the end of the year a state external review team will begin to work with the district to correct deficiencies found in the monitoring report.

The monitoring, required of all school districts in the state, was carried out last January and February with the report of the findings presented to the district in July. The report showed that the district failed 16 out of 43 items.

"The external team is a normal part of the monitoring process," schools superintendent, Dr. Larry Leverett said. "Whenever a district fails to pass monitoring, a team is organized by the state to assist the district. The external review team will be an addition to the work underway by the community planning task force."

The results from the external team's review will be incorporated into the work being done by the community task force, Leverett said.

The community planning task force, consisting of representatives from the community, was established last September and includes objectives to review the district's efforts to correct deficiencies found in the monitoring report.

"It is the team's job to analyze the problems that contributed to the failures and to assist us in correcting or eliminating them," Dr. Leverett said.

Leverett also indicated that the deficiencies in the district ran the gamut from minor paperwork that can be fixed within the year to more profound problems such as curriculum changes and student test scores.

"It is in the more difficult areas that we most look to the community task force to play a vital role in restructuring and redirecting the district's efforts," Dr. Leverett said.

Dr. Fitts told the board of education that he expects the external team to finish its work within the school year, most likely in the spring.

Edelman urges President Clinton not to abandon children

An open letter to President Clinton

by Marian Wright Edelman

I am calling for your unwavering leadership for children amid opposition to Senate and House welfare and Medicaid block grants which will make more children poor and sick.

As President, you have the opportunity and personal responsibility to

protect children from unjust policies. It would be a great moral and practical wrong for you to sign any welfare reform bill that will put millions of already poor children and families into poverty as both the Senate and House welfare bills will do.

It would be wrong to destroy the

60-year old guaranteed safety net for children, women, and poor families as both the Senate and House welfare bills will do.

It would be wrong to strip children of all federal assistance that helps for their daily survival during economic recessions and natural disasters as both the Senate and House bills will do. It would be wrong to exacerbate rather than alleviate the current shameful and epidemic child poverty that no decent, rich nation should tolerate for even one child.

Both the Senate and House welfare bills are morally and practically indefensible. Rather than solve widespread child deprivation, they simply shift the burden onto states and

localities with far fewer federal resources, weakened state maintenance of effort, and little or no state accountability.

As you well know, these block grants are not designed primarily to help children or to make families more self-sufficient.

They are Trojan Horses for massive budget cuts and for Housing an ideological agenda that says that government assistance for the poor and children should be dismantled and cut, while government assistance for wealthy individuals and corporations should be maintained and even increased. Do you think the Old Testament Prophets Isaiah, Micah, or Amos or Jesus Christ would support such

policies?

Neither the Senator House welfare bill is an example of the good competing with the perfect. Both are fatally flawed, callous, anti-child assaults. The Senate and House bills eviscerate the moral opponent between the nation and its children and its poor.

If child investments are unfairly and indiscriminately cut by any billions of dollars, there is perhaps some prospect of recouping the money over time when new child suffering becomes apparent as it did after the Reagan cuts and as it will this time as pending cuts are many times worse.

But longer term, and perhaps ir-

See EDELMAN URGES / page 10

EO renames school
for Cicely Tyson

EAST ORANGE—Mayor Candel Cooper and veteran actress Cicely Tyson enjoy the program during a recent tribute to the actress dedicating the Vernon L. Davey Junior High School to Tyson. The school was renamed the Cicely Tyson School.

Photo by Glen Finniss

Newark's rebirth continues with new residential homes

NEWARK—Mayor Sharpe James recently joined other city officials and representatives from official Horizon Homes in a groundbreaking ceremony for seven new two-family homes at Elwood and Summer Avenues in Newark.

The project is a partnership between Richard Martino, a businessman and Newark resident, and Custom Living Home Builders a Chester NJ-based firm.

When Custom Living Home Builders President Eugene Long and Martino decided to bring the quality and style of suburban homes to the urban areas, Newark resident and Horizon Homes' consultant Michael Raimo suggested that the project be dedicated to Newark.

"The most painful part of the process was to get the title for the land," said Raimo, "but we were decided to

do this, and we persisted."

In fact, the firm had to go through a two-year process with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to obtain the title, he noted.

By the end of 1994, Long joined Martino and the project was started.

"Our main concern is to serve the community and provide quality housing for Newark residents," Raimo said.

Long's expertise is evident—each of the 3,000-square foot structures has a three-bedroom home on the second floor, a two-bedroom home on the first floor, a one-car garage, two parking slots off the street, built-in security systems and special fire-protection.

Raimo credits Mayor Sharpe James with creating an atmosphere conducive for residential and business development in the city of Newark.

"It is Mayor James who has kept the spirit of the city alive," he said.

Mayor James noted, "We are very excited about this project, first, because of the quality product that Newark Horizon Homes is offering, and second, because this is a private endeavor; there is no city, state or federal financing involved, which is a testament to Newark's economic rebirth."

The first structure was scheduled to be finished by November 15, and the other six homes by April or May 1996. Among their plans are 76 other homes within the next several years in Newark's North Ward.

"There has been a great deal of support from Mayor James as well as from North Ward Councilman Anthony Carrino and Council Member At-Large Luis Quintana, and we will continue to enhance the downtown area in Newark," Raimo said.

PEOPLE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Haden receives national Teachers Award

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
NEWARK—The Drayfus Planetarium will feature their popular holiday show "Tis the Season." For more info call 201-596-6550.

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield High School Class of 1985 REUNION at the Pines Manor. For more info call 1-800-22-CLASS.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27
JERSEY CITY—Author Sarah Lawrence-Lightfoot, a professor at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education will host a faculty lecture at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3426.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
JERSEY CITY—The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 will be the subject of a seminar in the Auditorium of The A. Harry Moore Laboratory School. For more info call 201-200-3136.

NEW YORK, NY—The Schomburg Center for Research presents an evening of "Critical Perspectives" with professor Cornell West. Panelists include Alvin Poussaint, Glenn Loury and Sylvia Wynter. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. For ticket info call The Shop at 212-491-2206.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
CRANFORD—A seminar on "Stress Management" will be conducted from 8:10 to 10:10 p.m. at the Union County College Cranford campus. For more info call 908-708-7800.

EDISON—The Matushenko-Edison Branch of the NAACP is sponsoring its annual Freedom Fund Dinner, at the Victorian Manor. For more info call 908-549-7936.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
NEW YORK—Fifth Annual Capital District Kwanzaa and Christmas Gift and Craft Show at the Sage Junior College of Albany Gymnasium. For more info call 518-465-2446.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
HOBOKEN—Holiday Crafts Fair at City Hall from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more info call 201-420-2227.

SOUTH ISLIN—A Christmas train show and sale. Large operating O Scale layout with animated accessories. For more info call 908-463-8699.

PLAINFIELD—The student council of the CRCT School of Art and Design will hold its Annual Miniature Show and Sale. For more info call 908-757-7171.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
EDISON—Coping with Loss During the Holiday Season forum offered by JFK's Haven Hospice Program. For more info call 908-321-7535.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
WESTFIELD—Three Little Bakers But Trip Christmas Show. The trip includes show and buffet. For reservations call Cathy Forsythe at 908-654-9854.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
JERSEY CITY—Hudson Community College's Department of Continuing Education is offering a free seminar entitled "The Minority Woman on the Go." For more info call 201-714-2107.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
NEW YORK—The Lutheran Center For The Performing Arts presents Tai Babilonia & Randy Gardner in the "Nutcracker On Ice." For more info call 718-906-8833.

DECEMBER 13 & 14
JERSEY CITY—Aspiring chefs can now register for courses at Hudson County Community College's Culinary Arts Institute. For more info call 201-714-6153.

NEWARK—Elizabeth Haden, a first-year mathematics teacher at Weehawken High School was recently honored at the 11th annual Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award program held in Washington, DC.

Haden, who was one of approximately 53 first-year elementary teachers who received the award was selected because she demonstrated outstanding teaching skills and the ability to interact well with students, faculty, staff and parents.

Hugh B. Price named to NYNEX Board of Directors



Hugh B. Price

NEW YORK—The Board of Directors of NYNEX Corporation has elected Hugh B. Price a director of the corporation.

Price, 53, is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League, America's foremost social service and civil rights organization.

"NYNEX is proud to build on its association with the National Urban League and add to its board such a forceful and eloquent advocate for

communication between races as Hugh Price," said NYNEX Chairman and CEO Ivan G. Seidenberg. "His wide-ranging experience in public life and business will prove invaluable as we offer new products and services and build new relationships with customers."

Price's distinguished career in urban affairs and public policy advocacy has included a vice presidency of the Rockefeller Foundation, where he oversaw programs to increase minority opportunities and managed education initiatives for at-risk youth. Five years on the editorial board of the *New York Times*, where he wrote editorials on subjects including urban affairs, public education, welfare, criminal justice and telecommunications.

Price was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the National Skills Standards Board. Currently he is a director of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Cooper Union, the Urban Institute and the Academy of Political Science. A graduate of Amherst College, Price received a law degree from Yale Law School in 1966.



PLAINFIELD—On August 20, two hearts were made as one. Donald B. Moya and Diana Frederick, of Plainfield, were joined in holy matrimony at the Covenant Methodist Church in Plainfield. Moya is the owner of Moya & Moya Enterprises, and is a sergeant on the Plainfield Police Force. The bride is a manager at the WSRG Corporation in Bridgewater. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia.

AKA donates funds for school supplies



NEWARK—Chapter President Lamara Clarke (front row center) and members of Beta Alpha Omega Chapter, Newark Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. present a check for \$300 to Edythe Sydnor (front row right) of Bungoma Projects, Inc., to purchase school supplies for Miliki School in Kenya.

Photo courtesy of AKA

Professional Directory

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National News

at a glance

GANG VIOLENCE IS MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM

The number of deaths from gang-related street violence could top automobile accidents in the U.S. by 2003, according to a new study. The study, based on 7,288 gang-related homicides in Los Angeles found that deaths from such violence rose from 18 percent in 1979 to 43 percent in 1994. In 1979, firearms were used 71.4 percent of the time in gang-related homicides, that percentage had grown to 94.5 percent by 1994.

—LOS ANGELES, CA

MASSACHUSETTS URGED TO HALT AID TO UNWED TEEN MOMS

In spite of efforts of national and local advocates of social safety net programs, unwed teenage mothers in Massachusetts could find their cash assistance terminated, if Gov. William F. Weld (R) has his way. Weld is the first state leader to propose using legislation pending before Congress to cut off Aid for Families with Dependent Children to unwed mothers under 18. About 160,000 babies are born annually to unwed mothers 17 and under in the U.S. and about 11,000 of these are born to mothers under age 15. Nearly every state has already modified its AFDC program under special authority granted by the Federal Health and Human Services Department.

—MASSACHUSETTS

NATION OF ISLAM LOSES HUD CONTRACT

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has ordered the Baltimore Housing Authority to cancel a security contract with a company run by members of the Nation of Islam (NOI). HUD had been under fire from critics of Louis Farrakhan and the NOI for using federal funds to hire the Nation of Islam Security Agency (NOISA) to police public housing units in Baltimore and other cities. But, HUD, which has oversight of security contracts in federally sub-

See NEWS page 10

Don King takes the stand in fraud trial

by Surya Walls

NEW YORK, NY—Boxing promoter, philanthropist and multi-millionaire Don King made a surprise move in the fifth week of his trial. Taking the stand in his own defense, King vehemently denied charges he defrauded an insurance company of \$350,000. King, 64, is president of Don King Productions (DKP) which promotes boxing events. The government charges King collected the money illegally from Lloyd's of London.

He is charged with nine counts of mail fraud and falsifying a contract in 1991 with boxer Julio Cesar Chavez, collecting training fees the government says he never paid to Chavez. The defense began their case by calling King to the stand. Jurors

seemed more alert when King testified. Several jurors had fallen asleep while prosecutors presented their case.

On the stand, King was relaxed and in high spirits. During several points of his testimony, he caused jurors and court observers to burst out in laughter.

"I'm completely innocent of all the charges, allegations and accusations leveled on me," King said to the nine white, two Hispanic and one black jury. "That is the truth." The charges against King stem from a scheduled fight between Chavez and Harold Brazier, for June 28, 1991, in Las Vegas.

Lloyd's of London issued a \$750,000 non-appearance insurance claim in May 1991 for the fight in the event the fight was canceled. The fight was canceled a few days before the

scheduled date of June 28, after Chavez suffered injuries during practice. Prosecutors claim King faked a contract with Chavez so he could receive the training fees and he never paid the money (\$350,000) to Chavez.

King denied he "orally or in writing" added a clause in the contract to Lloyd's of London after the fight was canceled. The clause states Chavez received \$350,000 in "maintenance nonrefundable training fees."

Chavez had previously testified he never received the money. According to King, his former accountant, Joseph Maffia, who testified for the government, had the responsibility to acquire insurance coverage. He recalled meeting with Maffia in Las Vegas before the scheduled fight and he asked King said Maffia if he insured the fight. King said Maffia

replied, "Yes, I'm taking care of it." "That's idiocy (defrauding an insurance company)," King said angrily.

"It's inconceivable to defraud an insurance company. It's lunacy," he said. King told the court he hired Richard Hummer in July 1991, and he became Maffia's boss. Maffia left DKP that September 1991. He explained to jurors a "site agreement" he made in April 1991 between DKP and the Mirage Hotel for a Tyson vs. Riddick II fight. The Chavez/Brazier fight was the undercard.

The site agreement was between the hotel and DKP to accommodate fighters' traveling and marketing said King. According to King, he talked to Maffia in early May or April, and he told Maffia to get insurance for the fights. He learned Maffia obtained

\$750,000 for the Tyson fight and \$750,000 for the Chavez bout. He explained that in order to give a fighter an advance, approval must be given from the Nevada Athletic Commission.

"Nevada Commission does that to protect the fighter and insure the fighter gets paid, and to insure things are run in laws and regulations of the State of Nevada," said King. "I found out from Maffia he sent a letter to the commission asking for approval. He put in for \$735,000 advance to be deducted from Chavez's purse," he explained. According to King, he sent Gladys Rosa, his interpreter and public relations assistant who handles the Latin press to Los Angeles to get Chavez to sign the contract for the

See KING TAKES STAND page 10

Nigeria's case against Ken Saro-Wiwa

by William Reed

With the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, and eight others, in Nigeria, voices in the United States and Britain have increased for new sanctions against that country and its military leadership. But according to representatives of the Nigerian government "the international community has been bombarded with a lot of misinformation regarding the case" and the situation in Ogoni-land in the Rivers State of Nigeria.

The British Commonwealth, a 52-member organization grouping Britain and its former colonies, has suspended Nigeria for the hangings after it ignored international pleas for clemency for Saro-Wiwa, whom they describe as an "environmentalist" and "human rights activist."

The Commonwealth has threatened Nigeria's military rulers with outright expulsion unless they restore democracy.

While organizations such as Amnesty International say that the Saro-Wiwa trial was "fundamentally flawed" and that the defendants were not given "due process" of law, representatives of Nigeria's government, which has promised to return the country to civilian rule in 1998, paint a different picture of Saro-Wiwa.

They say Ken Saro-Wiwa was "the leader of a militant and violent group involved in murder and arson," and erroneously attracted worldwide sympathy and attention as a "prisoner of conscience."

In a meeting with African-American journalists and African activists, Malan Zubair M. Kazaura, Nigeria's ambassador to the U.S., said that the country is moving toward democracy and has introduced a process of rotating the Presidency and five other political offices among six geo-political units in Nigeria to attain power-sharing among the 250 diverse groups there and address the fundamental problems of nation-building and democracy.

He also stated that Saro-Wiwa was not arrested and sentenced for his crusade against environmental damages and the interests of Ogoni people, as is reported by most international press, but that Saro-Wiwa was "arrested and justly tried and convicted for his involvement in the premeditated brutal and cold-blooded murder of three Ogoni leaders who had dared to oppose his violent approach."

"World leaders, such as South African President Nelson Mandela, have stepped up their demands for 'democracy' in the government and

See NIGERIA'S CASE page 10

Did Congress plan the government shut down?

WASHINGTON, DC—The federal government partially closed down on Tuesday, November 14 for five days because the Republican Congress failed to pass the straight-forward legislation needed to keep the government running without increasing Medicare premiums and making deep cuts in education and the environment.

President Clinton stood firm in his commitment to balance the budget, but vetoed the spending bill sent to him by the Republicans because he believed, as congressional Democrats believe, that their budget plan is bad for America.

By overwhelming majorities, the American public has placed the blame for government shutdown at the feet of the congressional Republicans, who continue to pursue their agenda.

Speaker Newt Gingrich made it clear back in April that forcing an

unprecedented default on U.S. debt and a shutdown of the federal government is a tactic he and the other members of the GOP controlled Congress intended to use all along to force President Clinton into accepting harsh cuts in Medicare and tax breaks for the rich.

Below are excerpts from articles of various newspapers quoting certain members of Congress on the issue:

"House Speaker Newt Gingrich vowed yesterday to create a historic legislative stand-off with President Clinton by adding vetoed bills to must-pass legislation increasing the national debt ceiling." [Washington Times April 3, 1995].

Gingrich boasted that the President "will veto a number of things, and we'll put them all on the debt ceiling. And then he'll decide how big a crisis he wants." [Gingrich, Wash-

ington Times April 3, 1995].

In July, the GOP admitted that default was a political weapon in their arsenal.

"If we close down, people will listen." [Rep. John Kasich, Washington Post, July 25, 1995].

"I don't see the government shut down as a negative. I see it as a positive if things get righted." [Rep. John Kasich, AP On-line, July 26, 1995].

"If we have to temporarily shut down the government to get people's attention to show we're going to balance the budget then so be it." [Rep. John Christensen, AP On-line, July 26, 1995].

GOP Links Medicare doctor visits to government shutdown

"In the short-term spending bill that is needed to keep the government open."

See SHUT DOWN PAGE 8

CITY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

A Thanksgiving message

This week's Thanksgiving dinner will undoubtedly be a different and more reflective one to this country's black people. This year has been a tumultuous one for the African-American. Blacks have had to endure the wrath of the Republican Congress. The O.J. Simpson trial, the take-over of the Newark school district, countless corruption probes in the Essex County government and the mounds of hate mail received by the Congressional Black Caucus. And just when it seemed like the silver lining on the cloud was lost there was the Million Man March.

Through all the negative events experienced by blacks this year, the March was—to many—a life raft. The coming together of millions of black men brought a new surge of energy to the black community, and now it is doing for itself. As we sit down to our sumptuous dinners, let us not forget, better yet, let us reflect on the strength of our African-American brothers and sisters of the past and present. And let us all work harder to prepare our African-American youth for the future.

Let us not forget those who are not as fortunate as we. Find out where Thanksgiving dinners are being prepared and served and help out. Find out who in your community is cold and offer warmth. And just as the Million Man March was the beginning, let these acts be the beginning (or continuation, as the case may be) of your giving and strengthening of your community.

We wish you a happy holiday and renewed, empowered and lasting spirit.

Why the jury was right to find O.J. not guilty

by Deborah Campbell Wright

You know something is wrong when Rush Limbaugh and Sam Donaldson find themselves agreeing on an issue. They both decided early on that Mr. O.J. Simpson was guilty. Sam Donaldson is a liberal and you expect liberals to make predictable emotional decisions, but conservatives are supposed to be objective thinking people.

It is really too bad that race became an issue in the O.J. Simpson trial. The trial raised some far reaching ethical and Constitutional questions that the media chose to ignore. Instead, the radio talk shows, television news, and newspapers decided to play the race card, because the race issue always carries a sensational appeal which helps boost ratings and circulation.

Especially now in the verdict's aftermath, we see the media, who has as much credibility as the Los Angeles Police Department, fanning the flames of racial division. Before the verdict was announced, Rush Limbaugh said, "Only a blithering idiot would think that O.J. is not guilty."

I say, only a blithering idiot or

racist could ignore the serious credibility problem of the police and the illegal search of Mr. Simpson's home. People like Rush have a lynch mob mentality. A black man is accused of killing two white people, forge the constitution and the evidence—he is guilty.

After the not guilty verdict, some whites have been saying that Simpson was not convicted because the jury was black. In defense of objective white men and women, a conservative white man called Rush Limbaugh's show and insisted that there was reasonable doubt created by the lack of credibility of the police and the time-line.

For those of you who only see race, consider a few facts before you get the rope. The jury was instructed to disbelieve all or part of a witness's testimony—if they believed that the witness lied about a material fact. If you combine the lack of credibility of the lead detectives with incompetent criminal, sloppy crime lab; no time of death; an incompetent coroner; officers violating rules related to calling the coroner; Detective Vanatter taking Mr. Simpson's blood from the police department to a

See THE JURY WAS RIGHT? page 8

White America's twin targets: Simpson and Farrakhan

by Julian Robinson

Make no mistake about it, white America, including its media, now has two favorite whipping boys. One is O.J. Simpson and the other, Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan. And given the fact that the particular circumstances of both men will keep them in the public view during the coming months, you can be certain the verbal flogging will continue.

That O.J. is a black man formerly married to a white woman and accused of her murder probably doomed him to demonization from the start, regardless of the ultimate jury verdict. The fact of the two instances of spousal abuse in his past history guaranteed his guilt in the court of white public opinion.

Accordingly, a succession of negative facts and images about Simpson have been developed and publicly projected during and since the trial.

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See TWIN TARGETS? page 10

by Connie Woodruff

Mayor Sharpe James is not accustomed to being perceived as anyone less than the best so it's understandable why he was upset when an audience judged him to be second in an HBO Comic Relief National Fund-raising contest.

The contest was suspect at best since three African-American actors were pitted against each other to represent the cities of Newark, Baltimore and Seattle—all with overwhelming homeless problems and a large population of blacks.

Some people grumbled about James leaving town the midst of a local crisis, but what I've seen since his return from the West Coast are the same people welcoming him home as a conquering hero.

Plans for Mayor James to attend the taping of the "contest" had been made weeks before the latest difficulties of Newark Police Director William G. Coleman hit the front pages of the local press. The timing of the mayor's trip was definitely off but the only crime was poor judgment and many of us are guilty of this human error at some time in our lives.

I'm with the mayor: enough already.

Clergymen all over the state are meeting weekly to discuss the myriad problems plaguing the black communities.

This is a hopeful sign. The African-

can American clergy should take the lead in addressing community problems. But all of us know what these problems are and they don't need to be talked to death.

The time has come for action and that doesn't seem to be happening.

The Newark-New Jersey Committee of Black Churches boasts a membership of 40 but few ideas about how to tackle homelessness, unemployment, crime, poverty and other social ills in the metropolitan area are sadly lacking.

This group and others with a similar mission are still talking about the need for faith, hope, trust and have faith, to quote one of their leaders.

Black folks need to do much more than this. They need to stop buying into the distribution of free cheese, failure to persuade black political leaders to stand up and be counted.

Churches must offer more than mid-day sermons and bible study. Evangelism and feeding programs for senior citizens and the homeless.

It's fine to cheer Gov. Whitman's ability to lure companies to bring new business and industry to New Jersey but equally important are the jobs that are located; it appears most are not moving into cities where unemployment is the highest and to prepare a younger work force for the age of technology.

A much more effective use of the time, talent and expertise of the clergy would be for them to concentrate

on the needs of juveniles and their families.

Will Mayor Mark Fury of Plain-

field be able to muster enough support to win a primary election against Cong. Robert Torricelli seeking to become the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senator in 1996?

That question was raised at the NJCLED meeting last week in Atlantic City. The suggestions raised a lot of eyebrows since Mayor Fury is not one of the best known among African-American voters.

A story which caught our eye last week involved Harold Hodes, a former Newarker who came up through the ranks via association with former mayors Hugh Addonizio and Kenneth Gibson.

Today Hodes heads the state's top lobbying firm, Public Strategies/Impact and listed among local millionaires. Hodes learned how to make governmental relations profitable rather than theoretical and has never looked back.

The frenzy in Newark city hall is not alone but the suggestion that the mayor and some members of the city council.

It's all about the coming presidential election in 1996 and the make-up of the mayor and council in 1998. Conventional wisdom indicates Mayor James will play a pivotal role when President Clinton runs for re-

election. But will he if a cloud of uncertainty continues to hang over 980 Road Street?

On the other hand few other folks in New Jersey are as conversant with cities and their needs and their potential Democratic vote than Sharpe James.

As for 1998, candidates are already lining up for mayor and council seats and just plain folks are hinting about time for a change in City Hall.

This time around women want a bigger piece of the political pie and Latinos want to increase Luis Quiñana's leverage on the governing body.

Nobody is willing to announce their intentions at this time but you can bet they're waiting in the wings.

There are rumors of backroom politics to carve out a new roll for Cardell Cooper, mayor of East Orange and Richard Cody, State Senator. It is reported they were the subject of a high-powered meeting involving leaders of the Essex County Democratic Party machine who want incumbent County Executive Jim Treflitter out and Cooper in his job.

As for Cody there was talk about setting up the Essex County Executive position of running him for governor against Christie Whitman—provided she is not drafted and wins as a vice presidential choice.

In the meantime the beat goes on in New Jersey politics which is like no other anywhere in the country.

PASTORS' WORD

Essex County leadership a disappointment

by Rev. Reginald Jackson & Raiford Wheeler

Over the last two years or more we have seen or heard and been bombarded with constant stories about investigations of elected officials and other leaders in Essex County. During this time we have seen six County or Newark officials convicted or pleaded guilty, a host of others indicted and an ongoing investigation which has touched every department and area of government in Newark.

Last week alone we had to take the disturbing sight of the City Police Director and the Mayor's Chief of Staff and State Assemblyman, officers and homes under siege by agents of the FBI and Postal Service, carrying subpoenas looking for evidence in their expansive investigation.

All of the convictions, indictments and investigations have had a depressing and demoralizing effect on the population of the City of Newark

and the county of Essex.

When you talk to people on the street in so much and thought too hard to see black leadership rise only to fall. We expected better and we deserve better than we've gotten.

And yet as discouraging and disappointing as the situation is, we must not let this be a time for judgment on our leadership, our cities or our country. These two writers have been very critical of leadership in this country, and we believe justifiably so. But this is not a time for judgment or vilification. This is a time when whatever our differences, our faults, our affiliations, we need to come together as the people, to seek and encourage our leadership, as they seek to serve us, and to build up and encourage ourselves so that "we the people" regain the trust and the pride and the determination necessary to face this critical time.

Those of us who are black are particularly hurt and hurt by what is going on in our cities and the country.

Many of our parents, grandparents and we ourselves worked too hard, sacrificed too much and fought too hard to see black leadership rise only to fall. We expected better and we deserve better than we've gotten.

And yet as discouraging and disappointing as the situation is, we must not let this be a time for judgment on our leadership, our cities or our country. These two writers have been very critical of leadership in this country, and we believe justifiably so. But this is not a time for judgment or vilification. This is a time when whatever our differences, our faults, our affiliations, we need to come together as the people, to seek and encourage our leadership, as they seek to serve us, and to build up and encourage ourselves so that "we the people" regain the trust and the pride and the determination necessary to face this critical time.

As the people, we need to come together to seek to build up and encourage our leadership, as they seek to serve us, and to build up and encourage ourselves so that "we the people" regain the trust and the pride and the determination necessary to face this critical time.

See DISAPPOINTMENT? page 10

FROM CAPITOL HILL

Nigeria is not a 'Thugocracy'

by Asika Muhammad

When I was a young reporter at *Newswatch* magazine, a Los Angeles Bureau in 1968—hanging out, trying to earn a reputation among the black intellectuals, revolutionaries, nationalists, and activists—I learned an important lesson in the black street academy's University of *Hot Knocks*: "No investigation; no right to speak."

That is a good motto. Indeed, if one of Nigeria's loudest African-American critics abided by that unassailable street wisdom, then a lot of the current nay-saying about Nigeria would fade to a whimper.

Imagine, a group of otherwise widely-respected black leaders, led by a so-called "expert" on Africa, marching in front of the Nigerian embassy, chanting that Africa's most popular and most powerful nation "is bad name."

Imagine an NAACP leader, who also has never been to Nigeria, telling a crowd of demonstrators that his reputation-impaired organization had rejected a \$10,000 donation from Nigeria, saying never to take money from Nigeria's "cruel and brutal thugocracy."

Well, all of that happened this summer, and that was even before the recent execution of nine Ogoni activists, which Amnesty International, the British Commonwealth member states, and the world-wide human rights community condemned as a gross human rights violation. It is not fair to expect fundamental rights of due process and free-

dom of expression.

Well, I'm here to tell you that: 1. Nigeria is not a cruel and brutal thugocracy; 2. There is strong evidence to point that Amnesty International's "human rights activist" is a murderer and a cynical political manipulator, not a true champion; and 3. That Ogoni so-called "environmentalist and human rights activist" who was hanged, with eight others recently, may be the one person most responsible for the nullification of the June 12, 1993 presidential election, which led to the installation of a round of protests against ongoing military rule in that country.

I've known some brave, shaky black leaders, and have condemned them publicly when necessary. I have also been to Nigeria recently, meeting, interviewing, even debating some of their national leaders as well as dissidents and opponents of the current government there.

I have met Nigerian Head of State Gen. Sani Abacha, and I will state my personal reputation on these facts:

Gen. Abacha is not a cruel military dictator, he's no modern-day Amin; Nigeria is not a thugocracy. I agree with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the peace monitor who has aided democratic transitions around the world, when said recently: "Economist Gen. Abacha (Nigeria's Provisional Ruling Council) for making the decision to break the vicious cycle of violence, by committing direct acts of violence on 40 dissidents who were convicted of plotting a coup to overthrow the government."

"I believe it is helpful to the democratic process that the Nigerian military government lifted its ban on three key newspapers and political

activity."

Finally, the Ogoni leaders executed recently were convicted of investigating the brutal machete murders and burning the corpses of four Ogoni opponents and elders who opposed writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and his companions.

The children of two of the men murdered by Mr. Saro-Wiwa's investigation were a touching manifesto of their own to Amnesty: "...This time around Mr. [Saro-Wiwa] is being held in connection with the gruesome murder of our fathers, Chieftain S.N. Oron and E.N. Kohani along with others. Amnesty International has an

integrity to preserve, so you may wish to send someone to investigate the facts of this case if you wish. (Mr.) Saro-Wiwa is at present a murder suspect not a human rights activist. Draw the line..."

Ironically, in the grand Nigerian scheme of things, it was Mr. Saro-Wiwa and his band who probably had more to do with Nigeria's current electoral crisis than even the nullified presidential candidate Chief M.K.O. Abiola.

Against the wishes of the four slain Ogoni leaders, Mr. Saro-Wiwa demanded and got an election boy

See THUGOCRACY? page 10

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YOUTH BEAT

Orange youth 'put a chill on violence'

KIDS CALENDAR

THRU NOVEMBER
MOUNTAINIDE—Pre-schoolers' programs ages 2 and a half to 5 years-olds at Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainide. Tuesday from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. For more info call 908-789-3670.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
SOMERVILLE—"Curious George" at Raritan Valley Community College at 10 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. For more info call 908-218-8869.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
DUNELLEN—Lunch with Santa at the Dunellen United Methodist Church. For more info call 752-7437.

THRU DECEMBER 11
JERSEY CITY—"The Adolescent in Literature" program at Jersey City State College from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. every Monday. For more info call 201-200-2120.

THRU DECEMBER 17
MONTCLAIR—Gifted and talented youth classes at Montclair State University from 8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more info call 201-655-4104/42620.

Send Kid Calendar info to
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Have a
Happy
Thanksgiving

Explore the world of Toy Story

LOS ANGELES, CA—Set in a world where toys have a life of their own when people are not present, *Toy Story* is a sophisticated "buddy comedy" featuring the voices of two-time Academy Award-winner Tom Hanks, popular television comic Tim Allen and a wonderful cast of acting talents. *Toy Story* focuses on the relationship between two rival toys. There's Woody (Tom Hanks), a traditional pull-string talking cowboy, who has long enjoyed a place of honor as the favorite among six-year-old Andy's menagerie of toys. Admired and respected by the other toys, he is the de facto leader who keeps peace between the various and disparate personalities who tend to bicker among themselves.

Quick to calm their anxieties about being replaced by newer arrivals, Woody finds his own confidence shaken, and his status as top toy in jeopardy, when "strange things" begin to happen.

Those "strange things" coincide with the arrival of Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen), simply the coolest space action figure ever made. Complete with voice sampler, laser beam, karate chop action and pop-out wings, Buzz is a boy's dream come true but a pain-in-the-neck to his fellow-toy Woody.

Suffering from the delusion that he is not a toy but the actual intrepid defender of the galaxies who has been sent to save the universe from the evil Emperor Zurg, Buzz's sole purpose after crash-landing in Andy's room is to get his spaceship (the box in which he was sold) fixed and continue his mission with the universe protection unit.

Much to Woody's dislike, Buzz begins to monopolize all of Andy's attention and becomes an instant favorite with his toy mates: Slinky Dog, Woody's faithful and loyal sidekick, whose down-home southern drawl is provided by Jim Varney of the Ernest movies, Mr. Potato Head, the cantankerous spud, who is voiced by Don Rickles; Hamm, the know-it-all piggy bank, voiced by John Flitzberger, best known as America's most famous postman, Cliff Clavin on *Cheers*; Rex, the neurotic, sensitive and insecure plastic dinosaur, voiced by Wallace Shawn; and, Bo Peep, the

ORANGE—Nabisco, Inc. recently sponsored a youth symposium entitled "Putting A Chill On Violence" at the Orange Middle School in Orange. The symposium provided youngsters with an open forum to discuss and create alternative methods for coping with violence.

The event included a panel of celebrities and community leaders who discussed the issue of violence and offered advice on conflict resolution to young people from New Jersey and New York.

Radio personalities Doctor Dre and Ed Lover from New York's radio station WQHT "Hot 97" were emcees for the day. Panelists included: LL Cool J, rapper/actor and star of the NBC television series, *In The House*; Rita Owens, an educator in the Irvington, school system, mother of recording artist/actress Queen Latifah and founder of The Urban

Youth Coalition; Gemini Lake, an Essex County community activist who founded the "Father Figure" and "Non-Incarceration Alternatives to Incarceration" programs; Shelby Stone, award-winning producer of the HBO/Warner Music Group "Peace: Live In It, Or Rest In It" campaign; and founder of Black Cherokee Films; Nikki Matos, a student, community leader and single mother who is featured in Harlem Diary, the critically-acclaimed documentary from Discovery Communications; and Franklin A. Tucker, president and founder of the National Center to Rehabilitate Violent Youth.

The teen symposium was a collaborative effort of Nabisco, Inc., WQHT "Hot 97" and the Camp Cool J Foundation, an organization founded by LL Cool J that provides educational, recreational and cultural activities for inner-city youth.

Library seeks book donations

NEWARK—The Newark Public Library is requesting donations of new, unwrapped books suitable for children from preschool through age fourteen for the second annual "Books for Toys for Tots" holiday book program.

The book drive, to continue through December 11, is part of a statewide program sponsored by the New Jersey Library Association's Children's Services Section.

The intent of this program is to ensure that all children experience the joy of reading books of their own.

The books may be dropped off in special collection boxes located at the main library's children's room or any of our branches.

All of the books collected will be donated to Newark organizations serving disadvantaged and underprivileged children. Book distribution will begin on December 18.

Organizations serving Newark children which are in need of the books donated to The Newark Public Library should call Michele Cappetta at 201-733-5642.



LL Cool J and his mother Ondrea Smith (l), are accompanied by Rita Owens (2nd from r), Dr. Dre (r) 5-year-old musicians Lil' Nique (front l) and DJ Just at the "Putting A Chill On Violence Symposium." Photo by Natalie Parkins.

Newark students participate in teddy bear travel

NEWARK—Twenty students from Eighteenth Avenue School were recently at the Newark Airport to celebrate the inaugural flight of "Smooches" a stuffed bear who will be traveling around the United States.

The school is one of the participants in an educational program with Continental Airlines, in which the bear, equipped with a journal and a return address card, and with the assistance of flight attendants, will travel around the country and gather greetings and information about the places it has been and the people with whom it comes in contact.

The program is designed to help students learn more about their continent and the people who live here. Smooches' first scheduled stop will be Disney World in Orlando, Florida. From there, he will transfer to flights going to different parts of the country.

The Newark students will be able to chart the bear's travels on a large

wall map that will be on display in the school's main lobby.

According to Barbara Coleman, principal of Eighteenth Avenue School, the students are very excited about the program. "The entire student body will participate in the program, in various activities according to their grade level. Everyone is looking forward to reading the journal and perhaps receiving postcards or becoming pen pals with Smooches' fellow travelers."

A number of school activities are being planned around the bear's adventures. In addition to the trip to the airport, students also participated in a naming contest in which the name "Smooches" was chosen by a panel of judges.

In an effort to obtain the greatest possible educational value from the projects, teachers at the school will receive staff development training on ways of incorporating the project into the different aspects of the curriculum.

Devils' toys for tots drive set for December

RUTHERFORD—This New Jersey Devils, in conjunction with the United States Marine Corps will hold their 14th annual Toys for Tots collection on Friday, December 1, when the Devils host the Tampa Bay Lightning at 7:35 p.m.

All fans attending that evening's game are asked to bring new and unwrapped toys to the Meadowlands Arena. Representatives from the USMC, Company G 2/25, based in Dover will be on hand at each gate, the box office and the Winners Club entrance to collect the toys. Anyone making a donation will be eligible to win autographed New Jersey Devils memorabilia.

Following the collection, the toys will be distributed to hospitals, orphanages, and the less-fortunate children throughout the surrounding communities. Christmas '95 marks the 48th year that the USMC is involved with Toys for Tots. Last year, the USMC collected over 48,000 toys. For further information, contact the Devils at 201-935-6050.

Applicants sought for national step show

LOS ANGELES, CA—High school students around the country will go toe-to-toe in the upcoming "National Step Off" competition. Once a highlight for black Greek sororities and fraternities, the "National Step Off" will be held during the 1996 Black College Showcase in Miami Florida, March 21-24.

Step teams will be judged on clarity, precision, uniformity and creativity. Entries are on a first-come, first serve basis. Participants must be in high school. Schools or organizations can only enter one step team in each category, and participants can step for only one team. The For a full list of rules and inquiries regarding registration, contact Larry Miller at 305-891-3019 or the Reunion office at 305-653-7755.



A group of toys from Andy's room look on in shock as Buzz Lightyear accidentally falls out the window.

Photo courtesy of Walt Disney

beautiful porcelain lamp who lights up Woody's life, who is voiced by Annie Potts.

Woody plots to get rid of Buzz, but things backfire and he finds himself lost in the outside world with Buzz as his only companion. Joining forces to find their way home, the two

rivals set out on an adventure that takes them to Pizza Planet, a galactic-themed fast-food restaurant, and lands them in the clutches of Sid, a cruel neighborhood kid with a reputation for taking apart and "fixing" "mutant" toys—it is a toy's worst nightmare come true.

- Worldwide Test Results*
Math, Age 13
1. Korea
 2. Taiwan
 3. Switzerland
 4. Russia
 5. Hungary
 6. France
 7. Emilia-Romagna, Italy
 8. Israel
 9. Canada
 10. Scotland
 11. Ireland
 12. Slovenia
 13. Spain
 14. United States
 15. Jordan

If this were
a ranking for
Olympic Hockey,
we would be
outraged.

Education is our
passport to the
future, for
tomorrow belongs
to the people who
prepare for it
today.
—Malcolm X

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HEALTH CALENDAR

MONTHLY

UNION—HIV/AIDS Caregiver support group every 2nd and 4th Thursday at Union Hospital Grand Center at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-683-3117.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
MONTCLAIR—The Women's Center at Montclair University will present a workshop on Menopause: The Pill That Can Refresh. For more info call 201-655-5114.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
BERGEN-PASSAIC—The Greater North Jersey Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will hold its fourth annual "Bowl & Strife" from 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. in four locations. For more info on a location near you call 201-967-5599.

ATTENTION:
PLAINFIELD—Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center offers community health education classes and support groups for cancer, childbirth, Lamaze, diabetes, etc. For more info call 908-688-2000.

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
ENGLEWOOD—A gospel celebration event featuring Dennis Malloy. For more info call 201-343-6343.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26
WATCHUNG—Travis Prayer at Mount Saint Mary from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. For more info call 908-754-1555.

DECEMBER 1-3
ASBURY PARK—Tambourines to Glory by Langston Hughes at Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church. For more info and times call 908-774-9069.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
SUMMIT—Summit Choral presents An English Christmas. This event will take place at Morrow Memorial Methodist Church. For more info call 201-782-8486.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
NEW YORK—World Yatch's Sunday Gospel Brunch Cruise set sail with the soulful sounds of "The Hallelujah Choir." For more info call 212-630-8100.

PLAINFIELD—A special Candlelight Communion Service focusing on the true meaning of Christmas. For more info call 908-756-5322.

Blood donations needed

EAST ORANGE—The North Jersey Blood Center is announcing a variety of times and locations for opportunities to donate blood. "The need is particularly acute as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches," said Judy Knecht, spokesperson for the blood center.

Donors must be 18 years of age. Seventeen year olds may donate with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they have donated within the last 2 years, or have a doctor's note. Donors should know their social security number and bring a signed form of identification.

People with cold or flu symptoms should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 72 hour deferral for dental work, including routine teeth cleaning. For those who have traveled outside of the United States recently, call the blood center for eligibility criteria. For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, call the blood center at 1-800 BLOOD NJ.

SHARE begins holiday food drive

NEWARK—SHARE NEW JERSEY, the state wide anti-hunger organization, announced it has begun its annual Holiday Food Package Campaign. SHARE NEW JERSEY is offering these holiday food packages to church groups, food shelters, charitable groups, civic organizations, private companies and other New Jersey organizations dedicated to eliminating hunger this holiday season.

Food packages can be bought in 25 unit blocks for \$350. Each package consists of 15 to 16 food items, such as fresh meats, vegetables and fruits as well as, some non-perishable food items. Each package has a retail value of \$33 to \$38.

The closing date for Christmas orders is December 1, 1995. There is no limit on the number of packages each organization can purchase for distribution.

For more information or to place an order, call Sr. Beatrice at SHARE NEW JERSEY 1-800 213-2769 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

HEALTH FOCUS

African-American men don't have to be 'statistics'

James L. Phillips, M.D.
Baylor College of Medicine

They are serious statistics. One in nine African-American men will develop prostate cancer, a disease that is 32 or more times prevalent among blacks than whites.

Another health threat, hypertension, will strike one out of every three African-Americans. Another smoking-related disease still kill 45,000 blacks each year.

The tragedy is that all three are largely preventable or easily treated if caught early.

If you are an African-American man over age 50, get your prostate checked. The prostate, a walnut-sized gland located under the bladder, often becomes enlarged in older men, a condition known as benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). This condition can set the stage for prostate cancer.

If you have the symptoms difficulty urinating, frequent urinations es-

pecially at night, painful urination or ejaculation, weak or interrupted urine flow, and blood or pus in the urine or semen—then get to a doctor fast. Your physician can do a digital exam, or a simple blood test.

Hypertension or high blood pressure, if left untreated, can react to serious health problems and can be fatal. Keep in mind these key things: Lower your salt intake. Lose weight if you are overweight, and exercise, preferably 30 minutes of aerobic ex-

ercise three to four times a week. Walking is a wonderful way to achieve this. However, always follow your doctor's advice.

Sometimes medication is needed. If you smoke, you should stop. Try whatever works for you. There are smoking cessation programs, support groups, hypnosis, acupuncture, nicotine chewing gum and patches. Some smokers quit cold turkey.

Dr. Ken Goodrick, a behavioral psychologist at Baylor College of

Medicine in Houston recommends several methods:

- Keep a list of negative things associated with smoking.
- Smoke only when you feel like it.
- Keep a diary explaining why you smoke each cigarette.
- Keep cigarette butts in a clear container to "see" your habit.
- Taper down to the lowest level of nicotine you can tolerate.
- Set a date to quit smoking.
- Don't become the newest statistic.
- Make a change now.

Beat the winter cold with energy tips

NEWARK—Before the snow and sleet of winter start to fall, make sure your home is prepared for the cold weather. Some easy improvements now will save energy and money on monthly utility bills, while making your home more comfortable in the months ahead. And, in addition to saving money, you will be helping the environment by reducing the amount of energy consumed. Your local utility, or Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G), offers the following checklist you can use to evaluate your home before the bitter weather arrives.

Heating

Your heating unit's efficiency should be in the 70 to 75 percent range. Your heating contractor can check this, and your contractor can change air filters, seal air leaks in ducts, keep radiators and vents clean, and insulate pipes and ducts. You can also install an automatic thermostat.

This inexpensive device will au-

tomatically adjust the temperature in your home at different times of the day, so you won't overheat an empty house. Thermostat settings should be lowered to 68 degrees F during the day and 60 degrees at night.

Insulation

After you've tuned up your heating unit, keep the heat in your house. Insulation helps prevent the loss of heat from your home and by properly insulating, you can save as much as 30 percent on heating costs. For effective weatherization, insulation needs to be three or more inches thick in the attic. Be careful not to leave gaps or compress the material, and don't insulate over heat-producing equipment on the attic floor.

Storm Windows and Doors

Like insulation, storm windows and doors help eliminate heat loss. They also prevent moisture damage to wood sills and framing by minimizing condensation on the glass.

Double glazed windows, storm entry doors and windows with low-emissivity (low-E) help keep the heat inside during the winter.

Caulking and Weather-stripping

Caulking and weather-stripping are the easiest and least expensive measures that produce the greatest energy savings. Caulking should be applied where two stationary surfaces meet, such as a wall with a foundation or the space between a wall and a window frame. Weather-stripping is a narrow piece of foam, rubber, vinyl or metal which seals the crack between the fixed and movable sections of a joint. For example, doors and windows should be weather-stripped around the entire perimeter of your continuous strip along each joint.

Fireplaces

On a cold day, using your fireplace to heat your home may do more harm than good. Fireplace flues often create drafts and allow large amounts of heat to escape. Before you start using your fireplace this winter, check to be sure the fireplace damper is tight fitting and kept closed when not in use. If the damper doesn't close tightly or is broken, have it repaired or replaced.

Placing glass doors around the fireplace and closing them while the fire is burning will help prevent heated air from going up the chimney.

Taking steps to save energy not only helps save money on utility bills, it also helps preserve the environment. For additional information on fall home improvements call PSE&G's conservation center at 800-854-4444.

Interfaith council participates in hunger campaign

Each year the interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County joins non-profit organizations across the state and participates in "Ending Hunger Week," November 17 to 27 to remind the community that hunger stands for poverty, homelessness and lack of opportunity.

"Ending Hunger Week" is sponsored by Hand to Hand which educates the general public to the problem of hunger in the state and directs financial resources to non-profit organizations by matching funds for donations received during "Ending Hunger Week."

The Council encourages self-sufficiency and provides opportunities for people to end their own hunger and poverty. Donations can be mailed to the Interfaith Council, PO Box 569, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

Since the non-profit organization

opened its doors almost ten years ago, the typical homeless family has changed from one with middle-aged parents and school-aged children to families with parents under 25 and pre-school children.

Today the average age of a homeless individual assisted by the Interfaith Council, and across the country, is nine years of age. One out of every 8 children goes hungry every day in New Jersey. The Council serves approximately 350 homeless and formerly homeless children each year. Over 50 percent of the Council's clients are children.

The Council works in partnership with over 70 congregations in Union County and over 2000 volunteers to provide shelter, meals and support services to homeless families. To receive more information or to become a volunteer, call 908-753-4001.



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ARTZ WEDNESDAY

BILLBOARD

THRU NOVEMBER 23
MONTCLAIR—Shine On art exhibit at Montclair State University. For more info call 201-655-7640.

THRU DECEMBER 3
NEW YORK—New Federal Theatre presents Leslie Uggams and Adam Wade in J.E. Franklin's "Black Girl". Further info call 212-598-0400 from 12 noon - 3:00.

THRU DECEMBER 17
ELIZABETH—The Elizabeth Playhouse presents "The Petrified Forest," by Robert Emmet Sherwood. For more info call 395-0077.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24
ATLANTIC CITY—Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons appearing in "The Grand Avenue." For more info call 1-800-736-1420.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
HAMPTON—The Huntington Hills Playhouse presents "The Christmas Spirit," written by Jack O'Brien. For more info call 1-800-HHP-7313.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
NEW YORK—"In the City, Snow is Glistening" at the Museum of the City of New York. For more info call 212-534-1672.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
NEWARK—Bus Trip to see "Dreamgirls" in NYC. Bus departs from Essex County College at 7 p.m. Call 201-877-3208.

NEW YORK—Jazz at Lincoln Center presents Afro Cuban Jazz: an evening with Chico O'Farrill's. Call 212-721-6500.

MONTCLAIR—The Mainstage Theatre at Montclair University presents "Dancing at Lughnasa." For more info call 201-655-5112.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
METUCHEN—Celebrate 100 years of Oscar Hammerstein with the Forum Theatre's production of "A Grand Night For Singing." For more info call 908-544-0882.

Dreamgirls benefit for family and children's services

ELIZABETH—An Elizabeth based Agency with an historic commitment to helping vulnerable children and families in crisis, will benefit from an upcoming performance of *Dreamgirls* at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, on December 2nd.

Based on the 1960s rise to fame of a Detroit vocal group, *Dreamgirls* parallels the story of the legendary singing sensations, Diana Ross and the Supremes a group that helped define the "Motown Sound."

Paper Mill *Dreamgirls* Director, Mark Hoebe, calls this production "one of the most exciting shows out there." Hoebe says, "it is one of the few American rock and roll operas around." Nearly 2-1/2 hours of non-stop rock and soul songs performed by a nationally and internationally experienced cast, *Dreamgirls* is an exciting show, full of dazzling stage sets and costume designs.

"*Dreamgirls*" won a number of Tony Awards in 1982 when it was first performed. Tony Awards included Best Choreographer, Best Actor and Actress in a musical, Best Book of a musical, Best Lighting Design and Best Actor in any featured role.

Family and Children's Services' "Evening at the Theater" benefit co-chairs, Jacqueline Haley and Bernadette Houston, supported by an energetic special event committee of eighteen volunteers from around Union County, have already lined up strong community support for the event. Led by the corporate sponsorship of NatWest Bank, the committee has enlisted an additional fifteen patrons and hopes to identify more before the December 2nd performance.

For ticket information, contact Chitana Dickerson, Development Coordinator at Family and Children's Services, 40 North Avenue, Elizabeth, N.J. 07207, or call the Agency at 908-352-7474.

Family and Children's Services is a private, non-profit organization providing a range of child welfare, mental health and family services for over 1,000 families in crisis each year. The Agency is a membership agency of the United Way and Family Service America.

Music man Oji emerges as dominant producer

Producer/arranger/musician Oji has established himself as a dominant figure in the music industry in just a few short years. Writer and producer on the platinum-selling project, Montell Jordan's "This Is How We Do It", Oji shares credit on seven of the album's 15 singles, including the monster hit, "This Is How We Do It" and "Something 4 U Honey". The man's music doesn't stop there, however. Oji is staff producer for the Hughes Brothers enterprise, Underworld Entertainment and holds a music publishing deal at Madonna's Maverick label.

A native of Washington, DC, Oji settled in Los Angeles two and a half years ago, after serving as a keyboardist for some of the industry's finest, including Tom Jones, Pat Austin, Jodi Watley, Chanté Moore and Billy Preston.

"My musicianship has greatly influenced by production language," explains Oji, whose producer's credits also include spoken word artist, D. Knowledge, Earth, Wind & Fire's Philip Bailey, dance muscivore CeCe Peniston and rapper Coolio.

A musician since the age of 13, Oji was tapped by muses at an early age. His uncle is Major Harris of the

legendary Delfonics fame. By the age 17, Oji was performing and traveling with blues veterans like Oliver Sange and Richard "Groove" Holmes. His talent with the keyboards carried him far.

Oji decided to settle in Los Angeles a few years ago to take a break from the road. He built a studio and began producing demos and writing and collaborating with several music types around town. He and Montell Jordan stumbled upon each other during this time, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Jordan closed a pending deal with Def Jam Records and invited Oji to join him on the project. As Jordan states in his initial notes, "Oji, this is your album also." "This Is How We Do It" has gone multi-platinum, and now everyone wants the "Oji touch."

A diversified talent, Oji has book and television credits already under his belt. He has provided musical arrangement for three children's books on Dove Audio and one for Time Warner entitled K'WANZAA. In addition, it is his theme song that opens Walt Disney Television's "Daddy Bonaduce Talk Show." His soundtrack recordings include the



films, "Bad Boy Z," "Mi Vida Loca," and the upcoming "White Man's Burden" starring John Travolta.

A dedicated music man, Oji has only just begun his ascension up success' ladder. He keeps busy performing with his band, After Hours, and

has taken on talent under the auspices of his production company, Advin Production.

As the list of recording artists awaiting a break in his production schedule continues to grow, Oji continues to show us just how he does it.

Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales and True Tales



New York—Susan Taylor, Editor-in-Chief of Essence, hosted a special tribute to award-winning author Virginia Hamilton in New York, which celebrated African American women and the tradition of storytelling. This salute was held in conjunction with the premiere of Hamilton's new book, *HER STORIES: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales and True Tales*. Illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon, (Scholastic/The Blue Sky Press; November 1995, \$19.95), a series of magically illustrated stories about African American women and girls. L-R: (standing) Vy Higginsen, Rita Ewing, Virginia Hamilton, Susan Taylor, Tonya Lee, (seated) Rolanda Watts, Susan Ungaro, and Rita Owens.

The Rhythm and Blues Foundation to donate \$225,000 at Pioneer Awards

WASHINGTON, DC—The Trustees of The Rhythm and Blues Foundation, have announced that \$225,000 will be awarded to 13 legendary R&B masters at the Foundation's Seventh Annual Pioneer Awards program scheduled for February 1996.

The ceremony will mark a Foundation milestone awarding over \$1,500,000 through its grants and programs since its inception in 1988. The Seventh Annual Pioneer Awards will be held on Thursday, Feb. 29, in Los Angeles and cohosted by past Pioneer awardees Mavis Staples and Darlene Love.

The presentation will also include the Ray Charles Lifetime Achievement Award, which is the Foundation's highest honor. Additionally, eight individual artists and four groups will receive Pioneer Awards which carry \$15,000 and \$20,000 monetary grants respectively. Announcements of the 1996 Pioneer Award honorees will be made in January.

With over 100 artists celebrated by the Foundation in the past seven years, Pioneer Award recipients have included the likes of Fats Domino, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Little Richard, Jerry Butler, Irma Thomas, Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, The Shirelles, and Bobby "Blue" Bland.

For further information please call Ellen Zee Golden at EZG Media, 3108210899.

Read Artz Wednesday every week in City News

Wynton Marsalis at Lincoln Center



Wynton Marsalis, artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, takes the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra on the road to 25 U.S. cities beginning September 13 in Danville, KY, through its homecoming concert in Alice Tully Hall Sunday, October 15. The five-week tour will feature many two day residencies of concerts, workshops, master classes, film programs, and children's concerts and will include 17 cities where they have never played before.

Photo: John Abbott

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HOW TO GET THERE - FROM NEWARK: Take NJ Transit train (Broad St. Station) to Millburn, or take the #70 bus from Penn Station to Main Street, Millburn, 20 minutes by car.
FROM HUDSON COUNTY: Take NJ Transit train from Hoboken to Millburn, 25 minutes by car.

A short walk to the theatre from train or bus. Call for directions.

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Paper Mill gratefully acknowledges the support of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts

THE TOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!



Disney's TOY STORY

AT THEATRES NOV. 22

PIXAR 12 GENERAL AUDIENCES Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 12

Toy "Story" 2001 © Disney Pixar. Released by WALT DISNEY PICTURES. CINE MEX 1995 000007

BUSINESS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 28 - 30
BOSTON—Field & Sales Force Automation Conference. For more information, a free brochure, call 508-478-3880 or fax 508-478-0526.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
CRAWFORD—Trust and Estate Planning course at Union County College at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7600.

CRAWFORD—Asset Diversification course at Union County College at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7600.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
NEWARK—International Business and Technology nine-week course at 8:30 a.m. For more info call 201-242-6237, ext. 223.

WASHINGTON, DC—Training Education in Business & Consumer Media at Washington Marriott Hotel. For more info call 212-779-3200.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
FAIRFIELD—Computer Competence Seminars at Data Quest Systems. For more info call 201-882-8723.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
HACKENSACK—Training for Trades and Technology nine-week course at Bergen County Technical Schools. For more info call 201-343-8000, ext. 2293.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7
SEACUOUS—Business Success Trade Show and Expo at the Meadowlands Hilton from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. For more info call 201-797-1484.

DECEMBER 13 - 16
NEW ORLEANS—First Annual Mega Marketplace '95 at the Marriott Hotel. For more info call 504-529-4312.

BUSINESS

NMBC announces new business mentorship program

NEW YORK—The National Minority Business Council (NMBC) is launching its Business Mentorship Program for its 350 members, to provide a spectrum of services that will facilitate a more productive business environment for NMBC members.

Beginning in January 1996, the NMBC Business Mentorship Program will select 10 companies to go through a one-on-one instructional program

in the areas they are weakest in. Participants will receive mentoring on finance, sales, marketing, procurement, quality control, packaging and research & development.

Mentoring services are free, and will be given for six months by the consultants with expertise in each of the areas.

Ervin Graves, the program's administrator and a consultant in the

area of procurement, said that companies participating "will receive the maximum exposure and support to make them an even more viable company."

A rigorous review of the participating companies' business site, equipment, personnel and operations, will be included in the program.

"The intent is to make these companies better able to compete in the marketplace, and without an inhibitive

cost factor to them," said John F. Robinson, president and CEO of the NMBC.

The NMBC believes that the value of the mentoring services being provided would cost the participating

companies between \$5,000 to \$15,000, if procured from an outside management consulting firm. For further information, contact Ervin R. Graves at the NMBC at 212-573-3385.

ISO 9000 seminar offers companies a competitive edge

PATERSON—The Paterson Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) is offering a seminar, "The ISO 9000 Certification Process; How Your Company Can Profit," on Tuesday, December 5, 1995, between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the Brownstone House, 345 West Broadway in Paterson.

ISO 9000 is a series of world-class quality standards developed for manufacturing, trade and communication industries. As the demand increases for ISO 9000 quality products

and services, understanding the certification process is essential to companies of all sizes competing in both the international and domestic marketplace.

A seminar fee of \$15 per person for breakfast and seminar materials should be submitted by Nov. 27th to the Greater Paterson Chamber of Commerce, 100 Hamilton Plaza, Paterson, NJ 07650. For further information, please contact Deborah Hoffman, PEDC Executive Director, at 201-742-5711.

AT&T issues cellular guarantees for businesses

BASKING RIDGE—AT&T announced it will commemorate the one-year anniversary of its business service guarantees by introducing new guarantees for its business customers, including industry-leading guarantees on cellular service.

The company began nationally marketing cellular service on September 18, and said it will offer a network reliability guarantee covering the long distance portion of a customer's cellular service.

Additionally AT&T Wireless Services announced a guarantee providing its cellular customers with an automatic airtime credit if a qualifying cellular call is dropped, and redialed within one minute.

AT&T officials said that its Competitive Price Guarantee will be enhanced to reflect the company's confidence in the competitiveness of its long distance pricing.

Under the terms of the guarantee, businesses that experience long distance call completion problems can contact AT&T for problem diagnosis and remedy, even if the problem originates with the customer's local telephone company.

The company also announced that it will offer a guarantee on domestic fax calls.

Once effective, if an AT&T customer experiences a problem sending a domestic fax, the company will use its unique AT&T Faxalyzer(TM) system and new fax calling center to guarantee the fax's arrival.

"Constant improvements in our network and operational processes allow us to offer these kinds of guarantees to our business customers," said Holtz.

"Since we first introduced guarantees to our business customers, they have been extremely well received, often though only a fraction of customers have needed to invoke them."

Current guarantees also cover long distance network reliability, on-time installation, and international fax delivery on the most widely used AT&T business switched voice and fax services.

AT&T is the only company to offer a suite of comprehensive guarantees in the highly-competitive business long distance industry and now provides service guarantees to over nine million of its business customers.

For information about AT&T's new or expanded guarantees, business customers should contact their account executive or call 1-800-222-0400. Businesses seeking a pricing comparison should call 1-800-COMPARE (1-800-266-7273).

One cannot deny that in the area of public relations Farrakhan has proven to be his own worst enemy, given his long history of anti-Semitic rhetoric and other kinds of reprehensible hate-speech.

Neither, however, can it be denied that under his leadership an unprecedented phenomenon occurred in our nation's capital on October 16. On that date more than a million black men from every part of America, and some from as far away as Europe, came together respectfully and responsibly in search of solace, solutions and a new beginning.

In the words of one black analyst, "The most striking feature was probably how the participants contrasted with the many prevailing images of black men as dangerous and dysfunctional."

Here's hoping Louis Farrakhan and his associates, with our help and support, can capitalize on their initial national success by launching a multi-faceted self-help program with broad and lasting positive relevance for all America.

Twin targets

Continued from page 4

the Million Man March would fall flat and that Farrakhan would be totally discredited and disappear. Instead, the event proved a spectacular success; and the controversial Nation of Islam minister was immediately elevated to share with O.J. Simpson the number one spot on white America's list of demons.

During the first two weeks following the march, one criticism after another was leveled at Farrakhan and his associates. Initially, the size of the gathering was grossly underestimated and belittled by the National Park Service and most white commentators. In addition, the Minister's two-hour speech was heavily criticized by whites as "rambling and hate-filled," while blacks found it "up-lifting and inspiring."

Farrakhan's association with former NAACP executive director Rev. Benjamin Chavis also drew its share of implied criticism, as if their relationship constituted some sort of evil unholy alliance. Critics tried to downplay the significance of the event because women were excluded from direct participation.

An overriding theme of much white criticism, representing perhaps some sort of perverse wishful thinking, seemed to be that the march lacked a political or economic strategy. Of many motives attributed to Farrakhan by whites for convening the gathering, none were positive. I am reminded

Shutdown

Continued from page 3

running, GOP leaders have backed on a provision that canceled a scheduled decrease in the portion of the (Medicare) premium... which pays for doctor's visits and lab tests... and hospital visits.

The White House insists the Republican approach will hurt the elderly and Clinton has vowed not to deal with the Republican on the budget until they drop the provision, "Washington Post November 13, 1995).

The jury right

Continued from page 4

crime scene; and a contaminated crime scene, it is reasonable to distrust the blood evidence.

Once the detectives were discredited, the mountain of evidence quickly became a pile of garbage.

Many whites believe that Mr. Cochran was playing to black jurors with his emotional appeal during the closing arguments, but I believe that it was directed at the white jurors. This is where the disconnect occurs between blacks and whites.

Barry Scheck's attack on the evidence played to the distrust blacks have of the police. Since whites trust the police, an appeal to their conscience was required. The Rush Limbaughs and Sam Donaldsons of the world do not realize that we have absolutely nothing in common with whites when it comes to our experience with the justice system.

The black people who celebrated the Simpson verdict were not cheering out of disrespect for Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson. They were cheering because the corrupt officers did not win, and I share their hope that changes will come as the corruption is exposed across this country.

We worry more about our children being harassed by the police more than we do about criminals. When young black men encounter the police they do not see race, they see blue. The issue is not the race of the cop, it is the level of corruption.

Overshadowed by all the pomp and circumstance of the O.J. trial, this country has reached another critical point in its civil rights history. What is astonishing is the void in leadership in addressing this issue. Some Republicans are foolish enough to think that getting rid of affirmative action is addressing civil rights.

While the politicians in Washington are inactive, at best, the move toward reestablishing the nation's Bill of Rights and emphasizing cultural unity is being addressed by... Minister Louis Farrakhan and his Million Man March with its goal of teaching black men to be independent, disciplined and to take responsibility for the policing of their own neighborhoods.

Deborah Wright is chairman of Californians' for Educational Freedom located in Oakland, CA.

CENTURY 21's Top 21 Places to Live in the Northeast

1. Long Island, NY
2. Central New Jersey
3. Northern New Jersey
4. Boston, MA
5. Albany, Schenectady, Troy, NY
6. Monmouth, Ocean County, NJ
7. Worcester, Fitchburg, Leominster, MA
8. Rochester, NY
9. Syracuse, NY
10. Danbury, CT
11. Stamford, CT
12. Buffalo, Niagara Falls, NY
13. Providence, Warwick, Cranston, RI
14. Manchester, Nashua, NH
15. Portsmouth, ME
16. Portland, ME
17. Orange County, NY
18. Newark, Jersey City, NJ
19. Burlington, VT
20. Trenton, NJ
21. New York City, NY

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4.10	of cost control quality of work	
ST	and compliance with performance	
TY	schedules.	3
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NUDOT, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act, 1964, 78 Stat. 252-52 U.S.C. and 49 C.F.R., Part 21 is pursuant to such Act, affords minority/women business enterprises full opportunity to submit an indication of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate.

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All interested firms are advised to complete and return NJDOT Professional Services Prequalification (Form PS-02) as a new submission, or as a replacement of their 02 form, already on file which expires December 31, 1993. Firms also must contain complete latest information requested by NJDOT. The new Form PS-02 is requested by writing.

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King takes stand

Continued from page 3

Brazil fight. Rosa called King, telling him Chavez signed the contract for \$1.5 million, but she called back saying Chavez changed his mind and he wanted \$2 million, or he wouldn't come to Vegas.

But King said he told Chavez to come to Las Vegas, and Chavez asked for \$40,000. According to King, the fighter went to Vegas to get the money four or five days before his injury. King said he learned of Chavez's injury late that evening on June 20, a few days before the scheduled fight. King said he went to the hospital and the doctor advised Chavez not to risk his life.

"But Chavez said, 'I lost \$2 million. And I said 'That's okay, you'll make it up.' King said King said he decided to let the boxer have the

money, and a check was written for \$30,000. At first it was dated June 20. King changed his mind and dated it June 15 with "maintenance" written above the date. King said he decided to change his mind because he wanted Chavez to know he kept his word. Defense Attorney Peter Flemming asked King did he type or dictate notes, and King said "No."

Although King's signature was on the second page of the \$2 million contract, he said he didn't sign it. Mike Tyson showed up in court Monday morning in support of King. Tyson sat in the back of the courtroom as prosecutors questioned King. On the stand, King said the \$350,000 figure was made-up. However, King told jurors he was not responsible for coming up with the figure.

However, King told prosecutors

Maffia handled insurance claims. He explained there were between 40-50 employees who work for DKK. King told the prosecution he was not responsible for adding the clause to the contract. "It was made-up," yes said King. Prosecutors tried to shake King's story, but King explained he was an executive who had little involvement in insurance claims.

As prosecutors questioned King, court observers and jurors again began to fall asleep. King admitted to prosecutors it would be wrong and deceptive to add the clause of \$350,000, but he had nothing to do with it. King was the defense only witness. Closing arguments by the jury is expected to begin at the end or beginning of next week.

Sunya Walls is the editor of the South Suburban/Chicago Weekend newspaper.

Nigeria's case

Continued from page 3

"clendency" for a number of jailed leaders, but Nigerian officials have insisted on their sovereignty as an independent state and say the "real stories" of events happening inside their country are not being reported accurately.

In the latest incident, involving Saro-Wiwa, they say The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), was formed in 1990 based on the Ogoni Bill of Rights, a document presented to the federal government in which the group demanded their fair share of social amenities and federal funds, including oil exploration and drilling, in its area.

Initially Saro-Wiwa had no post in MOSOP, but applied to the group to be appointed public affairs officer and "deal with the press."

Ambassador Kazare, who knew and had visited with Saro-Wiwa in prison before his death, said "he used this position and his connections with the mass media to protect himself both nationally and internationally as the champion of the Ogoni cause, mainly to achieve his selfish goals."

Nigerian reports indicate that Saro-Wiwa created a number of independent units of MOSOP, most named the National Youth Council of Ogoni People (NYCOP). This be-

came the militant arm for terrorist acts inside Nigeria. Over time the NYCOP unit overshadowed the original MOSOP group, which advocated ongoing dialogue with the government, and embarked on anti-government acts of vandalism and terrorism.

In a "news flash" issued by Saro-Wiwa to NYCOP, the "old-guard" members of MOSOP were accused of having been involved by Shell Oil Company and the Nigerian government with millions of naira (dollars). This communique was, in reality, a death sentence on the accused men.

"NYCOP vigilantes passed a death sentence on Albert T. Badye, Chief E.N. Kobani, Chief S.N. Orage, former members of the executive of MOSOP; as well as T.S. Kogbari, Priscilla Vike; Dr. Charles Kpakoli; and Dr. Ben Birabi," said Ambassador Kazare.

At a May 21, 1994 meeting, NYCOP members surrounded the place and dragged out and killed A.T. Badye, Chief Samuel N. Orage and his elder brother, Engineer T. B. Orage.

Chief Kobani was killed within the palace, his brother escaped by hiding in a holy shrine and was an eye-witness at the trial. Nigerian officials say "it was clearly established

that the crisis revolved around Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Desmond Lera Orage, son of Samuel Orage, released a statement in Los Angeles saying, "The diminutive but monstrous murderer called Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa masquerading as a human rights and environmental crusader ordered the butchering, roasting and eating of distinguished Nigerians all in the name of 'destroying his opponents once and for all,' this convicted murderer is an uncle in-law of mine whom I have known for over 30 years."

In spite of international pleas for Saro-Wiwa, Nigerian officials contend the trial was thorough and fair and he was unquestionably involved in the premeditated murder of the four Ogoni leaders. Officials of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (The Black Press of America) have requested transcripts of the Ogoni group trial for review and publication to make public a more accurate portrayal of the trial than has been presented to date.

Chief Kobani was killed within the palace, his brother escaped by hiding in a holy shrine and was an eye-witness at the trial. Nigerian officials say "it was clearly established

Edelman urges President

Continued from page 1

reparable damage, will be inflicted on children if you permit to be destroyed the fundamental moral principle that an American child, regardless of the state or parents they chanced to draw, is entitled to protection of last resort by their national government.

If any piece of the framework of common sense of the laws—AFDC, Medicaid, family and child nutrition—is dismantled, we may not get them back in our lifetime or our children's. What a tragic step backwards for America when so many children already are left behind.

Both you and I know that there are lessons from American history, including the end of Reconstruction, when the immoral abandonment of structures of law and equity led to decades of setbacks for powerless Americans and battles we still are fighting today.

What a tragic irony it would be for this regressive attack on children and the poor to occur on your watch. For me, this is a defining moral *litmus test for your presidency*. We cannot heal our racial divisions or prepare our nation for the future unless we give poor black, brown, and white children a healthy and fair start in life.

These pending black grants will make that task so harder. Together

with the proposed tax policies. They will widen their income gap between America's have and have nots.

You have spoken too eloquently and worked too long for children to wipe it out with your signature now. It is nonsense for congressional leaders to argue that they are protecting children from a future debt children did not create by destroying the vital laws and investments children need to live, learn, and grow today. That is the domestic equivalent of bombing Vietnamese villages in order to save them.

It is moral hypocrisy for our nation to slash income, health, and nutrition assistance for poor children, while leaving untouched hundreds of billions in corporate welfare, giving new tax breaks of over \$200 billion for non-needy citizens, and giving the Pentagon almost \$7 billion they do not request.

The Children's Defense Fund wants welfare reform. But we want fair reform that does not pick on and hurt children and that provides parents jobs and safe childcare. We want reform that prepares our children for the new millennium—not reform that pushes them back to past inequities within and among States.

We want to "end welfare as we

know it." But we do not want to replace it with welfare as we do not want to know it. We do not want to codify a policy of national child abandonment.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt correctly said: "Better the occasional faults of a government that lives in a spirit of Charity than the constant omissions of a government frozen in the ice of its own indifference."

Every president since FDR—Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush, preserved the minimal national guarantee of income assistance for poor children. It is a precedent I hope and trust you will uphold. What was right and compassionate in FDR's day is right today and will be right tomorrow.

There is an even higher precedent that we profess to follow in our Judeo-Christian nation. The Old Testament prophets and the New Testament Messiah made plain God's mandate to protect the poor and the weak and the young. The Senate and House welfare bills do not meet this test.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and author of *Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children*.

Disappointment

Continued from page 4

moved from them and humble enough to acknowledge that individually and collectively they need the prayers of the people, especially at this hour.

But the people also need to pray to ask God to remove our anger and our pain, our disappointment and apathy so that we can hold our leadership accountable and work with them to improve what we live. This prayer service would not interfere or impede at all in any investigations underway. They should take their course.

We are sure these beliefs this is ideally or possibly. But we would remind you that we've tried everything else. Political alliances, conferences, summits, you name it.

What possible harm could prayer do. We can pray at home of course, but why not all of us together.

We could all be a welcome relief for people to see us praying together rather than fighting and arguing with each other. We claim to be people of faith who trust in God and believe in prayer. As the old folk use to say, "if ever we needed the Lord, we sure do need Him now."

And didn't God Himself declare, "if my people who are called by my name, will humbly love me and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Thugocracy

Continued from page 4

cott on June 12, 1993, in Ogoniland. The boycott was violently enforced with house burnings, looting, and beatings of Ogoni people who tried to vote.

The turmoil, which led to riots and the destruction of Shell Oil Co.'s \$30 million facility in Nigeria's Rivers State, was the last straw which moved Gen. Abacha, but his predecessor, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, to step in, nullify the election and declare Marshall law to restore order.

News

Continued from page 3

dized projects, said it was terminating the Baltimore contract because it violated federal procurement regulations.

The Baltimore bid drew fire because the \$4.6 million bid by the NOISA was not the lowest bid submitted. The NOISA security firms have drawn praise from most public housing residents for vastly improving conditions in drug-infested buildings in cities such as Washington, DC, Chicago, Baltimore and seven other cities. The situation in many of these buildings was so threatening that HUD officials admitted that they had interviewed residents about security services by telephone rather than send employees inside.

—BALTIMORE, MD

WHITE WRITER

PRaises FARRAKHAN

In a syndicated article writer Nicholas Von Hoffman praised Louis Farrakhan and the Million Man March. Von Hoffman, whose articles appear in over 200 newspapers, said "The key element in Farrakhan's message is that, 'For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also' (I James, 2:26).

Get a haircut and a shave and a job then do your job as husband and father. It is a lesson that many black public figures have been preaching for years. Booker T. Washington was urging members of his race to do that 100 years ago. Jesse Jackson has been saying many of the same things.

The message has always been that 'we as a race must do for ourselves.' The Million Man March was an astonishing manifestation of that. It could not have happened without vast numbers in the black community. Putting something close to a million bodies in the same place at the same time is a piece of organizational work of Homeric proportions. The march cancels out the old assumption that blacks cannot mobilize themselves on a national scale."

—WASHINGTON, DC

WHITE PREJUDICE HIGH WHEN INVOLVED WITH LARGE BLACK POPULATION

A study of racial attitudes suggests that large black populations provoke

negative reactions among whites, especially outside the South. In contrast, the study shows that sizable Latino or Asian American communities do not provoke the same reaction among white residents. The study, presented by Marylee Taylor to the American Sociological Association, said that for most racial opinions, negative views among whites peak in areas where the black population is above the national average. Taylor, an assistant professor of sociology at Penn State, studied 14 types of racial views and says, "Whites may fear loss of political control when the number of black residents expands." She added, "Whites may just feel that a local presence of blacks disrupts their world, because blacks think and act differently."

—WASHINGTON, DC

"CORE CALLS FOR PEACE IN NIGERIA"

Roy Innis, national chairman of the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) recently held a peace vigil in front of TransAfrica headquarters in Washington, DC, calling for "dialogue and engagement in Africa." Innis contends that TransAfrica and other organizations, such as Greenpeace, are a part of a "well-financed and coordinated 'push' to destabilize Nigeria" and is calling for "constructive engagement" instead of confrontation. Innis says that the program against Nigeria is about "The control Britain still wishes to exercise over the Nigerian people and economy."

—WASHINGTON, DC

BLACK POLITICIANS TO MEET IN NASSAU

"As the representative voice of Black America we expect that all of the nation's leadership in individual organizations will be in attendance to discuss the status of African-American agenda, on a local and national level, when we meet in Nassau this January," stated William Reed, executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), in announcing the organization's Mid-Winter Workshop. The 50-year-old NNPA will hold its winter 50-year-old place in Nassau, Bahamas, Jan. 24 to 28, 1996. "The public is invited to call us for information at 202-586-8764," says Reed.

—WASHINGTON, DC



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